

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown in the following detailed claim listing. The detailed claim listing amends previously pending claims 23, 33, 38, and 49, and adds new claims 56-67.

The following claim listing details specific amendments to individual claims.

Claims 1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the streaming of voice data among multiple devices in a local area network, the method comprising:

setting at least a first of the devices to one of a plurality of source modes in which the first device(s) provide(s) the voice data to one or more others of the devices;

setting at least a second of the devices to one of a plurality of sink modes in which the second device(s) receive(s) the voice data from the first device(s), independently of setting the first device(s) to the source modes;

establishing a connection for the voice data from the first device(s) to the second device(s) in accordance with the selected source and sink modes.

24. (Previously Added) The method of claim 23 where the source modes are associated with the devices, and specify both one of the devices as a source to provide the voice data and another of the devices as a sink to receive the voice data.

25. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24 where at least one of the source modes for the one device specifies multiple others of the devices as sinks to receive the voice data.

26. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24 where at least one of the source modes for the one device specifies a further of the devices in addition to the one device as a source for the voice data.

27. Previously Added) The method of claim 23 where the sink modes are associated with the devices, and specify both one of the devices as a sink to provide the voice data and another of the devices as a source to receive the voice data.

28. (Previously Added) The method of claim 27 where at least one of the sink modes for the one device specifies multiple others of the devices as sources to provide the voice data.

29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 27 where at least one of the sink modes for the one device specifies a further of the devices in addition to the one device as a sink for the voice data.

30. (Previously Added) The method of claim 23 where one of the source modes and a different one of the sink modes are set for the same one of the devices concurrently.

31. (Previously Added) The method of claim 23 further comprising locking the mode of at least one of the first and second devices during the communication.

32. (Previously Added) The method of claim 23 further comprising using a semaphore to prevent multiple devices from simultaneously changing modes.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon to perform the method of controlling the streaming of voice data among multiple devices in a local area network, the method comprising:
setting at least a first of the devices to one of a plurality of source modes in which the first device(s) provide(s) the voice data to one or more others of the devices;
setting at least a second of the devices to one of a plurality of sink modes in which the second device(s) receive(s) the voice data from the first device(s), independently of setting the first device(s) to the source modes;
establishing a connection for the voice data from the first device(s) to the second device(s) in accordance with the selected source and sink modes.

34. (Previously Added) The medium of claim 33 where the source and sink modes are associated with the devices, and specify one or more of the devices as a source to provide the voice data and one or more of the devices as a sink to receive the voice data.

35. (Previously Added) The medium of claim 34 where one of the modes specifies at least three of the devices.

36. (Previously Added) The medium of claim 33 where one of the source modes and a different one of the sink modes are set for the same one of the devices concurrently

37. (Previously Added) The medium of claim 33 where the method further comprises locking the mode of at least one of the first and second devices during the communication.

38. (Currently Amended) A data processing system, comprising:
a plurality of devices interconnected as a local area network, at least some of the devices having associated source and/or sink modes to provide and/or receive voice data;
a signal streaming controller to select among both the source and the sink modes independently of each other to establish a connection among certain of the devices to provide and to receive the voice data, respectively.

39. (Previously Added) The system of claim 38 where the modes specify both one of the devices as a source to provide the voice data and another of the devices as a sink to receive the voice data.

40. (Previously Added) The system of claim 39 where one of the source modes specifies multiple others of the devices as sinks to receive the voice data.

41. (Previously Added) The system of claim 39 where one of the source modes specifies a further of the devices as a further source to provide the voice data.

42. (Previously Added) The system of claim 39 where one of the sink modes specifies multiple others of the devices as sources to provide the voice data.

43. (Previously Added) The system of claim 39 where one of the sink modes specifies a further of the devices as a further sink to receive the voice data.

44. (Previously Added) The system of claim 39 where one of the source modes and a different one of the sink modes are selected for the same one of the devices concurrently.

45. (Previously Added) The system of claim 38 where the controller locks the mode of at least one of the first and second devices during the communication.

46. (Previously Added) The system of claim 38 where the controller use a semaphore to prevent multiple devices from simultaneously changing modes.

47. (Previously Added) The system of claim 38 where the controller is separate from the devices.

48. (Previously Added) The system of claim 38 where the controller is distributed among at least some of the devices.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38 where the devices in the network include one or more of a telephone, a ~~data processor~~ computer, a gateway.

50. (Previously Added) The system of claim 49 where one of the source modes for the telephone provides the voice data to the gateway.

51. (Previously Added) The system of claim 50 where one of the source modes for the telephone provides the voice data also to the computer.

52. (Previously Added) The system of claim 51 where the computer converts the voice data to text.

53. (Previously Added) The system of claim 49 where one of the source modes for the gateway provides the voice data to the telephone.

54. (Previously Added) The system of claim 53 where another of the source modes for the gateway provides the voice data also to the computer.

55. (Previously Added) The system of claim 54 where the computer converts text to the voice data.

56. (New) A data processing system, comprising:

 a plurality of devices interconnected as a local area network, at least some of the devices having associated source and/or sink modes to provide and/or receive voice data, and at least one of the devices being a computer adapted to perform a function upon the voice data;

 a signal streaming controller to select among both the source and the sink modes to establish a connection among certain of the devices to provide and to receive the voice data, respectively.

57. (New) The system of claim 56 where the function is one or more of
 converting voice signals to or from text,
 translating text to a different language,
 recognizing the voice data.

58. (New) The system of claim 56 where the function includes accepting voice commands or data.

59. (New) The system of claim 56 where the function is performed by software in the computer.

60. (New)The system of claim 56 where the computer acts as a source node to produce voice data.

61. (New)The system of claim 56 where the computer acts as a sink node to accept the voice data.

62. (New)The system of claim 61 where the computer further acts as a source node to produce voice data.

63. (New)A data processing system, comprising:

a plurality of devices interconnected as a local area network, at least some of the devices having associated source and/or sink modes to provide and/or receive voice data, and at least one of the devices being a gateway adapted to communicate the voice data to and from an external network;

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a signal streaming controller to select among both the source and the sink modes to establish a connection among certain of the devices to provide and to receive the voice data, respectively.

64. (New)The system of claim 63 where the external network is a data network.

65. (New)The system of claim 64 where the external network is the Internet.

66. (New)The system of claim 63 where the external network is a voice network.

67. (New)The system of claim 66 where the external network is a public switched telephone network.